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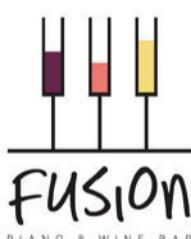
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Islanders celebrate at the Topcar 45th anniversary carnival kick-off party

The final days of Carnival 50 are upon us, and the days of unbridled revelry began on Wednesday evening, February 6, as Topcar, a division of Jolly Holdings, conducted a huge carnival-themed street party in front of their showroom in honor of the dealership's 45th anniversary. One of the biggest attractions was the customized "Pink 4 Life" high end KIA of Le Groove's bandleader Antoni Gario, who has embraced the make as his logo car.

45 years Aruba's exclusive agent for Nissan, Topcar acquired the KIA franchise in 2009. Celebrants and loyal clients enjoyed a first peek at the popular KIA Picanto 2013 models, along with enjoying bargain priced food and Heineken beer. For weeks prior to the party, licensed drivers were invited to visit Topcar to fill in a raffle ticket to win a new model Picanto. The evening ended with the drawing; Mr. Melvin Silberi, a neighbor of the Topcar dealership was the lucky winner.

Popular local bands Tsunami, Rincon Boyz, Le Groove, Dushi Band and Upgrade Music rounded out the carnival ambiance, and islanders celebrated until late in the night. The grand "kick-off" celebration will now be followed by nearly a week of parades and parties until the season is laid to rest with the commencement of Lent.

THE MORNING NEWS wishes Topcar many more successful years of serving and sharing with the community!

See more photo coverage
on pg 4

By Rosalie Klein

NOTE: Some of the shots
courtesy of 24ora.com



Mr. Melvin Silberi, the happy winner of the brand new KIA Picanto



The beautiful prize: the KIA Picanto 2013

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Inside Tips on fully enjoying the grand parades



Making sure young ears are protected

Beginning last night, the final weekend of Carnival 50, began. It is 48 hours of uninterrupted indulgence, which is why Monday is a national holiday, allowing the island to recuperate from the excess.

Island visitors may likely not attend all events, such as Jouvert Morning which took place in San Nicolas at 4:00 to segue into that town's grand final parade this afternoon.

Most vacationers do want to enjoy the Oranjestad Grand Parade, a fantastical and seemingly endless demonstration of island spirit, fantastical costumes, floats and roadpieces beginning at 10 AM tomorrow morning. This is at the eastern end of town, and usually arrives at the western end, by the cruise terminal, at around 3 PM.

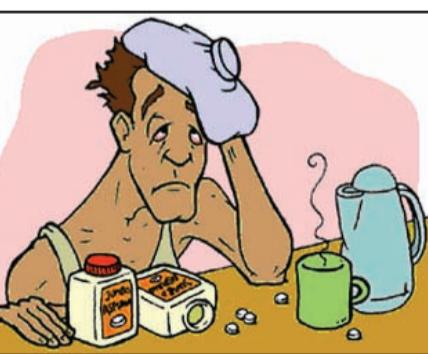
Aside from the continued and constant pleas from authorities and organizers to imbibe alcoholic beverages in moderation, there are likely to quite a few who will

utterly ignore this sensible suggestion. The misery of a hangover can be lessened by a few pre-binge practices, or combine them while downing those beers.

1) Eat Fatty Foods- all foods delay the absorption of alcohol, but the fatty ones are best. A good justification for fried chicken and pizza (with EXTRA cheese!)

2) Eat High Fiber Foods- they are supposed to break down alcohol and prevent it from being absorbed into the bloodstream, an alternative for those who wish to "eat healthy" (while consuming inordinate amounts of alcohol-go figure)

3) Avoid congeners- those elements that make alcoholic beverages darker in color and more intensely flavored are often the cause of the worst hangovers. Drink lite beer and white wine, rum



or vodka, if you must.

4) Avoid carbonation- the bubbles in soda and tonic water make the stomach expand and absorb alcohol faster, so don't mix, take it straight or with plain water. The acid in juices can further upset the stomach, encourag-

ing vomiting, which is no fun.

5) Drink lots of water- alcohol dehydrates the body, which causes much of the physical misery to follow. Add being in a tropical climate and there is a potentially dangerous combination. Alternate consumption of alcoholic drinks with lots and lots of water.

6) Have Onion Soup for dinner- If you are not passed out and do manage to have some appetite after, onion soup with lots of melted cheese is recommended. Onions are high in sugar, which speeds the body's metabolism and burns alcohol, and the cheese is dairy, which slows alcohol's entry into the bloodstream.

Even those who do not imbibe should watch out for over exposure to the sun. Wear shirts with sleeves and higher necklines to protect shoulders and the exposed chest, which tend to get the worst burns. Don't forget to put sun block on the back of your neck, tops of your feet if wearing open sandals, and behind the ears.

Earplugs are sold at all hotel newsstands and local drugstores. The high decibel music is extremely damaging to hearing, and Aruba's Quota Club conducts a campaign about this annually. Even with the earplugs you will hear all the music. Particularly make sure children have their ears plugged, as they are most vulnerable.

Aruba's annual carnival is a feast for the senses; THE MORNING NEWS wishes all a wonderful final grand parade with a warning to indulge sensibly!

Aruba Caiso & Soca Monarch CD/DVD now on the market!



All those who were anticipating the Aruba Caiso & Soca Monarch CD or DVD, Musica is proud to announce that they are here!

SONG LIST:

Pacquiao - Mervin Baptiste "Blacky" - Le Groove

Savages - Ashrock Gario "Diamond Chip" - Le Groove

We Going Bananas - Richard Quandt "Mighty Tattoo" - Zeta Band

Iron Coming Down - Miguel Oliva "Mighty Campo" - D.U.R.O.

Pan Di Dios - Jairo Evertz "Buchi Cunucu" - Claudius & OREO

They Still Can't Hear It

- Antonio Mingo "T Money" Le Groove

4 FUN - Cesar Olarte "Emperor C-Zar" Dushi Band

Fan Meh - Livette Richardson "Dancing Queen" - NBO

Soca Constructors

- Samuel Philips "Caiso Teddy" - Dushi Band

Thiefin' A Wine - Ashmiani Gario "Pink Diamond" Le Groove

Chillin' Chillin' - Shaun Philips - "Mighty" Talent

Jr. "Claudius & OREO

Don't Kill The Messenger - Ashmiani Gario - "Pink Diamond" Le Groove

Graf - Jonathan Thiel "King Jeon" Upgrade

The Cold Truth - Richard Quandt "Mighty Tattoo" Zeta Band.

The production can be bought at Cd & More in Sta. Cruz or at Dragon CD San Nicolas and at Music Box in Oranjestad.

Also during the parades the CD/DVD will be sold on the route.

One can call 5930006, 5676477 y 5941500 for more information.

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Venezuela devalues currency 32% against US dollar



move was announced at a press conference by Planning and Finance Minister Jorge Giordani.

He said the change will take effect on Wednesday.

The goal is to "minimize expenditure and maximize results." One effect of a devaluation is to make exports cheaper and thus boost them.

Chavez is convalescing in Cuba, where he underwent a fourth round of cancer surgery on December 11.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro, who visited Chavez this week, said at the same press conference Friday that Chavez is concerned about the Venezuelan economy and called for a "major effort" to maintain its pace of growth.

The bolivar thus goes from 4.3 to 6.3 to the dollar. The

'Unbalanced' woman vandalises famed Delacroix painting by Marie-Laure Michel

LENS, France (AFP) - One of the most iconic paintings in French history, Delacroix's "Liberty Leading the People", was defaced by a woman with psychiatric problems but escaped permanent damage.

The 28-year-old woman, who was being held by police Friday, is accused of using a black marker to deface the masterpiece at a recently opened satellite branch of the

Louvre in Lens, northern France.

Her motives were unclear but her scrawling of "AE911" had some wondering if she was suffering from delusions involving the 9/11 attacks.

The woman would have faced up to seven years in prison and a 100,000 euro (\$135,000) fine if found criminally responsible and convicted of defacing a cultural object.

Fascinating work of Aruban Rudy Leysner on display at Ateliers '89



Talented young Aruban artist Rudy Leysner

Aruba's center for developing artistic talent in island youth and encouraging the arts of every description, Ateliers '89, is hosting an exhibition of work by intriguing artist Rudy Leysner in their annex. Rudy, who is working for his Masters De-

gree at the Minerva Academy in Cartagena, Colombia, has a remarkable talent for illustration, which would lend itself beautifully to a graphic novel, though this is not his field of interest.

Presently, he has turned his attention to historic

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APPE
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Soup
Lobster Bisque with garlic croutons

Salad Veronique

Mixed baby lettuce with feta cheese, black grape, pine nuts, grape tomato, cucumber, avocado, red onion, served with a basil leaf pesto dressing and garlic croutons

<<< or >>>

MAIN
COUR
SE

Sautéed King Scallops
Sautéed King Scallop on top of vanilla and yellow squash risotto and served with cilantro butter lemon sauce

Black August beef
tenderloin steak.

Black August beef tenderloin steak, grilled to your liking with sweet potato and asparagus served with a raspberry rosemary red wine reduction

<<< or >>>

DE
SS
E
RT

Parfait of Chocolate
Tiramisu

Chocolate Strawberries
with vanilla whip cream

<<< or >>>

LAST
&
BE
ST

After dinner drink warm
Irish coffee
Warm whisky with brown sugar and espresso coffee topped with whip cream and finest with cacao

Tea
any flavor

*Prices are subject to changes
Please call +5863600 for reservation

Aruban figures, such as "Boy" Ecuy, G.F. "Betico" Croes, and other important individuals to the island. His work will be on display for another month, until the finish of the newest workshop at Ateliers '89.

In the main building of the center is an exhibition of the latest program presented by the center, focusing on Graphic Design. "An Introduction to Graphic Art & Design" was conducted by visiting instructor Seral de Haan, a graduate of the Gerrit Rietveld Art Academy, who maintains a very successful design studio in Amsterdam.

Graphic Arts impact our lives daily, influencing our consumer decisions, activities and a myriad number of other choices. Copywriters



Boy Ecuy by Rudy
Leysner

may create the clever slogans, but it is the layout artist and their choices of font, color and placement which bring the words alive for consumers. It is, very likely, the most practiced application of art training in the world.

The month long workshop was dedicated to shape, com-

position, color, choice of lettering (fonts) as well as print techniques for producing posters and other signage. A part of the class focused on the students developing their own logos. Their experiments and the results which are on display, is a remarkable testament illustrating the influence of each aspect of graphic design on our everyday lives.

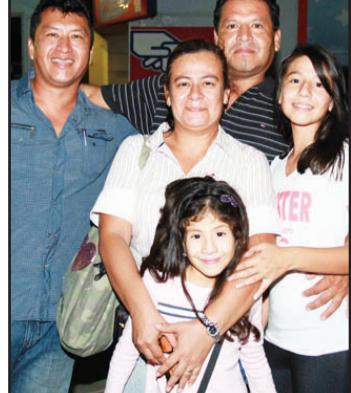
Ateliers '89 exhibits are open to the public Monday through Friday, and workshops with visiting instructors, in every aspect of the arts, are conducted several times a year. For more information on classes and directions to their Oranjestad studios, call Director Elvis Lopez at 565-4613.

By Rosalie Klein

Islanders celebrate at the Topcar 45th anniversary carnival kick-off party



The customized "Pink 4 Life" high end KIA of Le Groove bandleader Antoni Gario



Royal Marines to join Aruba's Carnaval



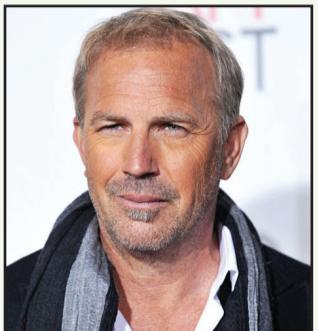
The Royal Marines of the Dutch Kingdom are celebrating 525 years of existence this year. This is a grand jubilee which will be honored all over the Kingdom. On Aruba this majestic event will also be recognised. In celebration the Steel band of the Royal Marines will be participating in both Carnaval parades this weekend. Today at the San Nicolas Carnaval Parade and Sunday at the Grand Parade in Oranjestad. The Steel band and Aruba has had a special connection for years. The Aruban community saw to it that the band was formed in 1969 with the then functioning Commander of the Marine Corps, by gifting them a complete steel band instrumentation. That was the beginning of the Royal Marines Steel band. They are known as the music ambassadors of the Marine Corps and take their music all over the world. So everyone be on the look out for the Marines Steel band during the Carnaval parades.

REXARUBA.COM is upgraded!



REXARUBA.COM informs all its users who surf their website that an upgrade has been done. REXARUBA.COM now boasts a much bigger server which makes surfing their site much faster. Thankful to the many users, after only 9 months of existence administrators were obligated to upgrade so to better handle the huge daily traffic on the site. REXARUBA.COM wishes to thank all their visitors for the huge support received and are prepared to keep serving the community with all the info they search for.

France's Cesars to honour Kevin Costner



PARIS (AFP) - Hollywood actor and director Kevin Costner is to receive a lifetime achievement award at France's annual Cesars ceremony later this month, the academy said Friday.

A two-time Oscar winner for the 1990 film "Dances with Wolves", Costner, 58, will receive his honorary Cesar at the French film awards in Paris on February 22.

In addition to "Dances with Wolves" for which he won best picture and best director Oscars, Costner has starred in a string of box office successes including "Field of Dreams", "The Untouchables" and "The Bodyguard" with Whitney Houston.

The academy said in a statement it was "proud and happy" to announce the award to Costner for his lifetime's work as an actor, director and producer and his "fabulous contribution to cinematic history".

Austrian director Michael Haneke's film "Amour", which won the Palme d'Or top prize at the Cannes film festival last year, is among the nominees in the Cesars' best film category.

For best foreign film, nominees include Ben Affleck's "Argo" in which he starred and also directed.

Last year, British actress Kate Winslet was awarded an honorary Cesar.

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Grammys set for fun. night, but with clothes on

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The music world gathers in Los Angeles on Sunday for the Grammys, with oddly-punctuated indie pop band fun. hoping to win big at the industry's top awards show -- as long as they keep their clothes on.

Elton John, Taylor Swift and Mumford & Sons are among a galaxy of stars to take the stage at the Staples Center -- albeit with a warning not to show too much flesh, be it breasts, nipples or the dreaded "buttock crack."

Others in the running for

Grammys glory include rapper Frank Ocean, The Black Keys, Jack White, Kelly Clarkson and Gotye, while late Indian sitar guru Ravi Shankar is set to receive a posthumous lifetime achievement Grammy award.

But New York band fun. topped nominations announced in December, short-listed in six categories including the key ones of best album ("Some Nights"), song ("We are Young"), record (for producers of "We are Young") and best new artist.

If they were to win all

four, it would mark the first such achievement in more than 30 years, according to The New York Times.

Rap artist Frank Ocean also scored six nominations, including for best album (the critically acclaimed "Channel Orange"), record of the year ("Thinkin' Bout You"), best new artist and best urban contemporary album.

Ocean caused a stir in the macho and sometimes homophobic realm of hip-hop when he revealed in a Tumblr blog prior to the release of "Channel Orange" that he

had been involved in a gay relationship.

The Grammys are the premier music industry awards in the United States, with no fewer than 81 categories. Winners are determined by voting among members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Also vying for best album are three-time Grammy winners The Black Keys for "El Camino," British rock-folk group Mumford & Sons for "Babel" and rocker Jack White for "Blunderbuss."

Record of the year contenders also include The Black Keys' "Lonely Boy," Kelly Clarkson's "Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You)," Gotye's "Somebody That I Used to Know" and Taylor Swift's "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."

Last year's Grammys were dominated by British soul songstress Adele, who collected six awards, including album of the year for "21" -- only the second woman in Grammy history to collect so many awards in a single go.

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Chile court orders remains of poet Neruda exhumed



SANTIAGO (AFP) - A Chilean judge has ordered the remains of poet and Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda exhumed as part of an investigation into his death, the foundation that manages his literary legacy said Friday.

The leftist poet, who died 12 days after the 1973 military coup that ousted the socialist president Salvador Allende and brought General Augusto Pinochet to power, was long believed to have died of prostate cancer.

But officials in 2011 started looking into the possibility he was poisoned by agents of the Pinochet regime, as claimed by Neruda's driver.

No date for the exhumation has been set.

Neruda is buried next to

his wife Matilde Urrutia in Isla Negra, 120 kilometers west of the capital Santiago. He won the Nobel prize for literature in 1971.

The Pablo Neruda Foundation said it learned a few days ago from judge Mario Carroza of his decision to have the remains of the poet exhumed.

The investigation began last year after a complaint was filed by the Chilean communist party, to which Neruda belonged.

The complaint came after Neruda's driver, Manuel Araya, declared publicly that Pinochet agents poisoned Neruda while he was hospitalized with cancer.

The Pablo Neruda Foundation has denied he was murdered, and says it still believes he died of cancer.

In Friday's statement it expressed hope that the exhumation would be conducted "with the greatest possible respect and care" and that it would clear up "any doubts that might exist" as to how Neruda died.

Driving banned, flights canceled in US blizzard



Sanitation workers use tractors to pile up salt at a depot. The New York City metropolitan area is expected to get 10-to-14 inches of snow

NEW YORK (AFP) - Two northeastern US states banned cars from roads and thousands of flights were cancelled Friday as the leading edge of a blizzard hit with winds forecasted to gust at hurricane-strength.

The storm was forecast to bring the heaviest snow to the densely-populated northeast corridor so far this winter, threatening power and transport links for tens of millions of people and the major cities of Boston and New York.

Governor Deval Patrick temporarily ordered all normal traffic off Massachusetts roads, with the threat of up to a year in jail for violators.

"There are a number of exemptions for... emergency workers and the like. Please exercise caution and use common sense," Patrick said at his emergency center in Framingham.

In Connecticut, Governor Dannel Malloy issued a "ban on motor vehicle travel on limited access highways" to free up emergency services traffic.

New York and other regional airports saw more than 4,500 cancellations ahead of what the National Weather Service called "a major winter storm with blizzard conditions" along most of the region's coastline.

It came a little over three

months after Hurricane Sandy devastated swathes of New York and New Jersey, killing 132 people and causing damage worth some \$71.4 billion.

Snow began in light flurries across the region early Friday, but thickened and by Saturday was expected to leave depths of between half and one foot in New York and as much as two feet in Boston.

The National Weather Service warned that "in addition to the heavy snowfall, wind gusts of up to hurricane force are possible, especially near the coast. This will result in blizzard conditions with drifting and blowing snow."

On Friday night travel "will be extremely hazardous, if not impossible," the National Weather Service said.

The good news was that the storm's peak was due as the weekend began, meaning far fewer people would be on the roads. Forecasters said the system should blow through on Saturday, with milder temperatures to follow.

Boston was in the bull's eye for the next 24 hours. Patrick declared a state of emergency, with some 5,000 National Guards soldiers called up, and schools in Boston ordered closed.

Authorities in New York and neighboring New Jersey summoned extra personnel and deployed more than 200 pieces of snow and ice removal equipment in key area airports such as JFK International, LaGuardia and Newark Liberty International.

But JetBlue executive Rob Maruster told NY1 television that the airline was canceling all New York area flights from Friday afternoon through to noon on Saturday.

In addition to mass flight cancellations, the rail service Amtrak said trains from New York northbound and also to the capital Washington, DC, would be suspended later Friday.

Among the more glamorous victims of the travel upsets was designer Marc Jacobs, who had to reschedule his two shows at New York Fashion Week due to "the snow storm in the US and production problems."

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who came under withering criticism for the city's flat-footed response to a blizzard in 2010, said residents should stock up with vital supplies and prepare for the worst.

"Stay off the city streets, stay out of your cars," he said at a news conference. "Staying off the streets will make it easier for city workers to clear the streets of snow."

Locals were comparing the coming storm to the ferocious Blizzard of 1978, which killed 100 people and buried Boston in more than 27 inches (68 centimeters) of snow and Providence, Rhode Island in nearly 28 inches (71 centimeters).

During that storm, people were forced to abandon cars stuck on highways and made their way around Boston on cross country skis and snowshoes.

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International News

Hillary Clinton is America's favorite politico: poll

WASHINGTON (AFP) - She may be fresh out of a job, but Hillary Clinton is currently the most popular political figure in America, well ahead of President Barack Obama, who is slipping, a poll published Friday found.

Clinton, who stepped down last month as Obama's secretary of state, enjoys a 61 percent favorability among US voters compared with a 34 percent unfavorable rating, according to a survey by Quinnipiac University.

Obama, who beat Clinton to the Democratic nomination in 2008 and took the White House, had a positive-negative favorability of 51-46 percent.

But the president's job approval numbers were tagged at 46-45, a slide from the 53-40 percent figures he scored in December after his re-election victory.

"Hillary Clinton ends her term as secretary of state and the bruising inquiry into the Benghazi murders as easily the most popular actor on the

American political stage today," Peter Brown, assistant director of Quinnipiac's polling institute, said in a statement.

The poll, which surveyed 1,772 registered voters, will feed into swirling speculation about Clinton's 2016 presidential ambitions.

The Democrat has so far said she has no plans to re-enter politics, saying she wants to rest and spend more time with her family after two decades in the public spotlight.

Political pundits, however, assert that the former first lady's renowned drive and experience could lead her to pursue a second White House bid.

Other notables in the Quinnipiac poll included Vice President Joe Biden, who had a 46-41 favorability rating.

However Republican House Speaker John Boehner scored a dismal 20-42, and rising Republican star Senator Marco Rubio came in at 27-15, with 57 percent of the poll's respondents saying they did not know enough about him.

Hong Kong customs discover 2,600 live snakes

HONG KONG (AFP) - Hong Kong customs authorities investigating a shipment from Thailand marked as fruit were shocked to discover the consignment instead contained 2,600 live snakes, officials said Friday.

Customs intercepted the air cargo shipment of 2,400 common rat snakes and 200 cobras on Tuesday and returned them on Thursday, a government spokeswoman said, just days before the start of the Year of the Snake in the Chinese horoscope.

The intended fate of the snakes was not known but both species are used in southern

Chinese cuisine. Snake is considered a delicacy, often served as a soup, and is believed to improve blood circulation and ward off illness.

Under Hong Kong law, anyone found guilty of smuggling cargo into the city faces imprisonment of up to seven years and a maximum fine of HK\$2 million (US\$250,000).

The latest bust comes after Hong Kong customs last month seized more than US\$1 million worth of endangered seahorses and crocodile meat being smuggled into the city, believed to be for Chinese medicine and eating, respectively.

Britain's RAF probes historic sex abuse at German base

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Royal Air Force said that it has questioned one of its former servicemen over claims that he sexually abused children at a British base in Berlin in the 1980s. The RAF's Police Special Investigations and Intelligence Branch said it had questioned a man over alleged offences between 1981 and 1989. He was stationed at the now-closed Gatow RAF base in what was then West Berlin. British personnel left the Gatow base in Berlin in 1994, and the site is now home to the German Air Force museum. Britain, the United States and France have stationed troops in western Germany since the end of World War II and it was an important base for the NATO allies during the Cold War. Britain still has around 16,000 soldiers in Germany based in the Rhine area but plans to withdraw the final troops by 2020.



Lovers' Menu

APPETIZER

*Sautéed Conch
or*

Grilled Chorizo & Morcilla

ENTRÉE

Grilled Tenderloin

or

*Fresh Grouper fillet with Garlic Shrimps
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DESSERT

Mi Dushi Trio

(Flan/chocolate fudge brownie/crepes with dulce de leche)

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Health & Living

'Light' sodas may hike diabetes risk: study

PARIS (AFP) - Artificially sweetened sodas have been linked to a higher risk of Type 2 diabetes for women than sodas sweetened with ordinary sugar, a French study unveiled found.

"Contrary to conventional thinking, the risk of diabetes is higher with 'light' beverages compared with 'regular' sweetened drinks," the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) said.

More than 66,000 French women volunteers were quizzed about their dietary habits and their health was then monitored over 14 years from 1993 to 2007.

The women were middle-

aged or older when they joined the study -- born between 1925 and 1950.

Sugar-sweetened sodas have previously been linked to an increased risk of diabetes, but less is known about their artificially sweetened counterparts -- often promoted as a healthier substitute.

Researchers dug into the data mine to look at the prevalence of diabetes among women who drank either type of soda, and those who drank only unsweetened fruit juice.

Compared with juice-drinkers, women who drank both types of soda had a higher incidence of diabetes.

The increased risk was about

a third for those who drank up to 359 millilitres (12 US ounces) of soda per week, and more than double among those who drank up to 603 ml (20 ounces) per week.

Drinkers of light sodas had an even higher risk of diabetes compared to those who drank regular ones: 15 percent higher for consumption of 500 ml (16.9 ounces) per week, and 59 percent higher for consumption of 1.5 litres (50 ounces) per week, Inserm said.

The study found no increase in diabetes among women who drank only 100-percent fruit juice, compared with non-consumers.

The authors noted that women who drank "light" sodas tended to drink more of it -- 2.8 glasses a week on average compared to 1.6 glasses among women on "regular" sodas.

The study took account of the women's age and corpulence, but did not keep close track of their eating habits during the study period.

The authors also pointed out that obese people were more likely than thin ones to drink artificially sweetened drinks in the first place.

According to the World Health Organisation, 347 million people worldwide have diabetes, a chronic disease which occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough glucose-controlling insulin, or when the body cannot efficiently use it.

Type 2 diabetes, other than Type 1 which starts in childhood and requires insulin treatment, often results from excess body weight and physical inactivity.

Over time, the disease can damage the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves -- increasing the risk of heart disease, kidney failure, stroke and blindness.



Comigel has its administrative headquarters in Metz in northeastern France but its production centres are in Luxembourg.

The company supplies frozen meals to supermarket chains and other clients in 16 countries, with Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Scandinavia the main markets and Findus products among the brands it provides for.

The lasagne affair is the latest horsemeat-related scare after horse DNA was found two weeks ago in beefburgers in Britain and Ireland.

CPR IN 3 SIMPLE STEPS



1. CALL

Check the victim for unresponsiveness. If the person is not responsive and not breathing or not breathing normally. Call 911 or 100 and return to the victim. In most locations the emergency dispatcher can assist you with CPR instructions.

2. PUMP

If the victim is still not breathing normally, coughing or moving, or has a slow pulse begin chest compressions. Push down in the center of the chest 2 inches 30 times. Pump hard and fast at the rate of at least 100/minute, faster than once per second.

3. BLOW

Tilt the head back and lift the chin. Pinch nose and cover the mouth with yours and blow until you see the chest rise. Give 2 breaths. Each breath should take 1 second.

CONTINUE WITH 30 PUMPS AND 2 BREATHS UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

NOTE: This ratio is the same for one-person & two-person CPR. In two-person CPR the person pumping the chest stops while the other gives mouth-to-mouth breathing.

Sci-Tech

US settles with final publisher in Apple e-book case

NEW YORK (AFP) - US authorities said Friday they reached a settlement with Macmillan, the last of five publishing firms accused of colluding with Apple in an e-book price-fixing conspiracy.

The Justice Department said in a statement that with the five publishers having settled, the case will proceed against Apple, and that a trial was set to begin in June.

Macmillan joined Penguin Group, Hachette Book Group Inc., HarperCollins and Simon

& Schuster in settling the charges of an illegal conspiracy to raise e-book prices.

Macmillan agreed to immediately lift restrictions it has imposed on discounting and other promotions by e-book retailers, and its practices will be monitored under the settlement.

US officials allege the price-fixing scheme was aimed at ending a discounting effort by Amazon, which sold most e-books at \$9.99 until Apple's new pricing plan was

forced on the retail giant.

The move almost instantly raised the prices consumers paid for e-books to \$12.99, \$14.99 or higher, according to the US complaint.

According to the lawsuit filed last April, the five publishers and Apple were unhappy Amazon's efforts had reduced e-book prices and the retail profit margins of the book sellers to levels they thought were too low.

BlackBerry says new phones won't be sold in Japan

OTTAWA (AFP) - The smartphone maker BlackBerry confirmed Friday that it has no immediate plans to sell its new handsets in Japan, but the company denied it was abandoning one of the world's most tech-savvy nations.

Having fallen far behind Apple and lost ground to other smartphone makers such as Samsung, BlackBerry last week launched two new devices -- the Q10 and the Z10 -- in a very public bid to revive its fortunes and gain market share.

The Canadian company also changed its name from Research in Motion (RIM), to the simpler BlackBerry as part of a relaunch that included the unveiling of a new operating system.

While BlackBerry helped create a culture of mobile users glued to the smartphones nearly a decade ago -- dubbed "crackberry addicts" -- many of those customers have since moved to Apple or Android-based phones.



Go Green Around Your Home :

- Unplug household appliances and electronics (like the coffee maker, toaster, and cell phone charger) when they're not in use.
- Bring your own (reusable) grocery bags to the store.
- Replace burned out lightbulbs with CFLs.
- Save water by installing low-flow showerheads, faucets, and toilets.
- Get the most out of your appliances by only washing full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Whenever possible, open your windows. Opening the windows will cut down on your energy bills by allowing you to shut off your air conditioner and feel the breeze.

Villagers flee huge aftershock in tsunami-hit Solomons



HONIARA (AFP) - A huge aftershock rocked the Solomon Islands on Friday, sending villagers fleeing to higher ground two days after an 8.0-magnitude quake and tsunami which left 13 people dead and many more missing. The 6.8-magnitude tremor was one of the strongest in a series of aftershocks that have been hampering relief efforts on remote Ndende island in the eastern Solomons, where Wednesday's tsunami inundated some 20 villages and left thousands homeless. The quake, which was initially measured at 7.1 at a shallow depth of nine kilometres (5.5 miles) just 23 kilometres from the main town Lata, rocked buildings for 30 to 40 seconds, national disaster management office spokesman Sipuru Rove told AFP. Rove, who was in the coastal town when the tremor hit, said villagers fled to higher ground. Another major 7.0 tremor, followed by two smaller ones, hit in the early hours of today but at a greater depth of 26 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said. The aftershocks have prevented villagers from returning home and hampered their efforts to salvage supplies from damaged houses and bring them to makeshift camps in the rugged interior. Planes attempting to fly aid to the area have also been wary of landing at the damaged airstrip in Lata amid the continuing quakes. The prime minister's spokesman said the area was officially declared a disaster zone on Friday, as Australia announced it would assist relief efforts.

CO MICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

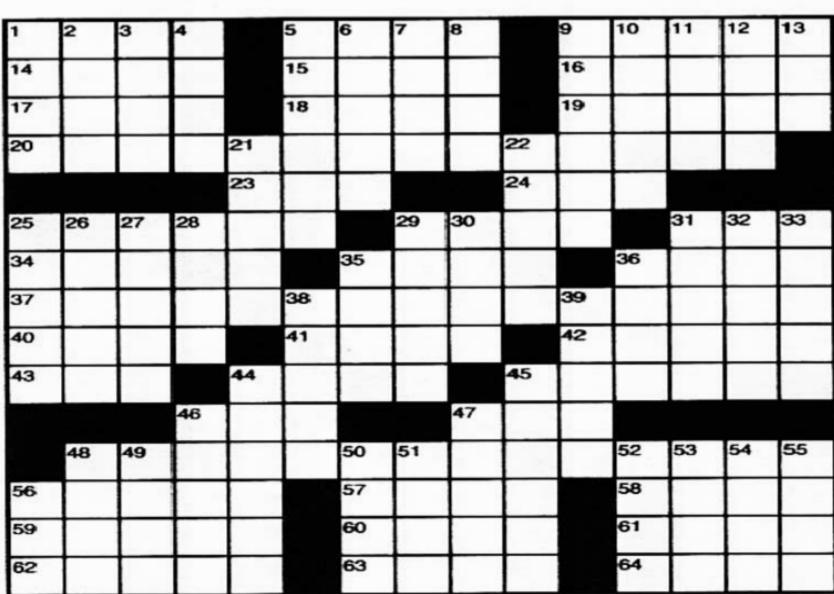
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ACROSS

1. Alphabet
5. Dunce
9. Carnegie and Evans
14. Frazzled
15. Region
16. Chicago-based reviewer
17. Denuded
18. Actress Patricia
19. Cotton fiber
20. Grilled-sandwich ingredient
23. Part of B&B
24. "___ a boy!"
25. Female monster
29. Berne's river
31. Chicago Loop loopers
34. Night noise
35. Actress Logan

36. "Dracula" author Stoker
37. 1988 Eddie Murphy film
40. Hymn end
41. Solar disk
42. Spiked clubs
43. Antique auto
44. City on the Skunk
45. Soapmaking by-product
46. Upper limb
47. Held a session
48. Secret identity of Steve Rogers
56. Blue Grotto's site
57. Rooster on the roof
58. Pertaining to a historic time
59. Acapulco

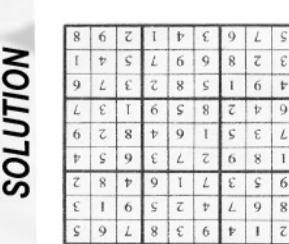


LAND OF THE FREE

coins	10. "___ Irish Rose"
60. Daring Knievel	11. To a smaller degree
61. Military area	12. ___ Stanley Gardner
62. In re	13. Canonized mle.
63. "Que ___..."	21. "Peer Gynt" dramatist
64. Snicker ___	22. King of Tyre
DOWN	25. Felix's roommate
1. Statesman Eban	26. Ogre's cousin
2. Show great pleasure	27. "...wherefore art thou ___"
3. Be interested	28. Shamrock Isle
4. Lob or mob ending	29. African lilies
5. Trips the light fantastic	30. Lawyer Dershowitz
6. Mountain nymph	31. Author Jong
7. Trimmed of fat	32. Ties
8. Après-bain substance	33. SRO show
9. Erase	35. Small: suffix

38. Greek letter	39. Show feelings
44. Painter	45. Richardson's epistolary novel
46. Kitchen garb	47. Not as batty
48. Norman city	49. Church recess
50. Currier and	51. Apse's neighbor
52. Insurgents, informally	53. Persia, today
54. Just in ___	55. Toward shelter
56. Ledger examiner: abbr.	57. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



Center for Hemodialysis

Posada Clinic Aruba
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and Drug Addiction
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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE

Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

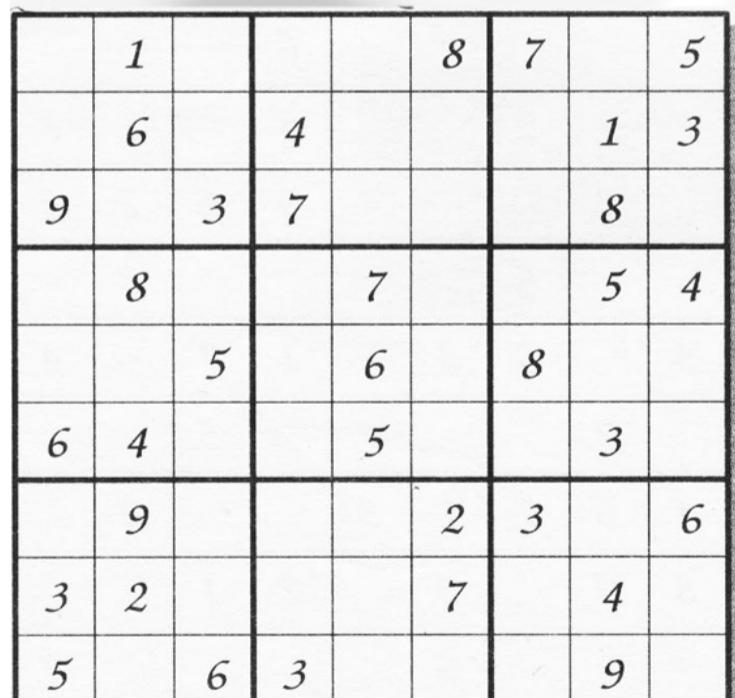
Important Telephone Numbers

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POLICE HQS
Telephone 100

TAXI
C.V. TAS
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In Oranjestad:
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604
582-5447
In San Nicolas
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602
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Finance

EU agrees historic cut to budget after tough talks

BRUSSELS (AFP) - European Union leaders agreed Friday the first ever cut in the bloc's budget after all-night talks driven by sharp differences over priorities for the next seven years.

"Deal done!" summit chair and EU President Herman Van Rompuy said on Twitter after more than 24 hours of tough talks between the bloc's 27 heads of state and government.

"There's a lot in it for everybody", he added a short time later, while emphasising that the 2014-2020 austerity budget embodied "a sense of collective responsibility from European leaders."

Pushed by British Prime Minister David Cameron, who said the EU could not increase spending while many of its members were forced to slash their national budgets, leaders agreed a cut of around three percent compared with the 2007-13 budget.

It was "a good deal for British taxpayers", Cameron said, adding that for a growing eurosceptic audience at home, it also "shows that working with allies, it is possible to take real steps towards reform in the European Union."

The British leader's stance had put him on a collision course with countries such as France and Italy, which wanted increased EU investment to boost growth and curb record unemployment.

Significantly, the EU's farm support programme, of which France is a major beneficiary, and Cohesion Funds, used to help new member states catch up with their peers, were not cut further from figures Van Rompuy submitted to a failed summit in November.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the deal "was worth the effort" and she "was glad that everyone showed the needed willingness to compromise."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras was also upbeat, and said his country would receive more than 16 billion euros from the budget.

Greece obtained "much more, even, than what seemed realistically feasible at the beginning of the negotiations," he added.

Under the accord, 2014-20 actual spending, or "payments" in EU jargon, was set at 908.4 billion euros (\$1.2 trillion), with an absolute ceiling of 960 billion euros for spending "commitments" to the budget.

That is just one percent of the bloc's gross domestic product (GDP) and is less than the figure of 973 billion euros that Cameron and allies such as the Netherlands had rejected in November.

In the EU budget process, commitments refer to the maximum amount that can be allocated to programmes, while actual spending or "payments" is usually lower because projects are sometimes delayed or dropped.

Originally, the European Commission had sought a 5.0 percent increase in commitments to 1.04 trillion euros (\$1.4 trillion).

The final agreement, however, is only part of the battle because there is another important hurdle to clear -- the European Parliament must approve the budget, and lawmakers are in no mood for austerity.

Since late 2009 the parliament has acquired more decision-making powers within the EU, must now live up to its responsibilities and approve the budget, Van Rompuy said.

But the heads of the four largest groups in Parliament, which is to vote on the budget in July, said they could not accept it in its current form as it would not help boost the struggling EU economy.

Cameron, who last month risked isolating himself by proposing to hold a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU, had insisted Thursday that the budget figures be cut..

New York probing rating firms: source

NEW YORK (AFP) - The New York attorney general has launched a probe into the mortgage bond rating practices of major ratings firms as a factor in the 2008 financial crisis, a person close to the investigation said Friday.

The New York probe will look at the ratings of mortgage securities by Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. Those ratings have been criticized for being overly positive and downplaying risk to investors ahead of the 2008 crisis.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sent a subpoena to S&P and formal information requests to Moody's and Fitch, said the person close to the investigation.

The New York action comes on the heels of a lawsuit filed earlier this week by the Department of Justice against S&P.

The US accused S&P of knowingly inflating its ratings on collateralized debt obligations and residential mortgage-backed securities in 2007 in order to win revenue from issuers. S&P has called the suit meritless and pledges to fight the case.

The US suggested it would seek at least \$5 billion from S&P in civil damages.

Any enforcement by New York state could face a hurdle following a June 2008 settlement between the firms and Schneiderman's predecessor, Andrew Cuomo, that cleared the ratings firms of additional enforcement in exchange for abiding by a number of provisions.

The 2008 settlement is not a public document, but Cuomo issued a news release laying out some of the measures agreed by the rating firms. They include reforms on the fee structure charged on investment banks and additional disclosure.

The New York attorney general could proceed with enforcement against the rating firms if the probe shows the firms violated the terms of the 2008 agreement, said the person close to the New York probe.

An S&P spokeswoman declined to comment on the New York probe.

Moody's chief executive Ray McDaniel suggested the New York probe was a routine regulatory matter. He told analysts on a conference call that Moody's responds to regulator queries on an "ongoing basis."

A Fitch spokesman didn't immediately respond to a message.



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AMRITSAR (AFP) - An Indian youth Shamsher Singh works in a cabbage field on the outskirts of Amritsar on February 8, 2013. India's government said the economy will likely register its slowest annual growth in a decade and expand just 5.0 percent in the fiscal year ending in March, citing official estimates released February 7

US firm Las Vegas Sands confirms Madrid mega-casino project

MADRID (AFP) - US firm Las Vegas Sands said on Friday that it will go ahead with the construction of a vast casino project near Madrid which could create up to 200,000 jobs, the Madrid regional government said.

Six years after unveiling the contested project, the company run by US billionaire Sheldon Adelson will build the project on 750 hectares (1,850 acres) of land in Alcorcon, located about 15 kilometres (10 miles) southwest of the Spanish capital, the head of the regional government of Madrid, Ignacio Gonzalez, said.

"We expect to launch the first rock at the end of the year," he told a news conference.

The "Eurovegas" project calls for the construction of four casino complexes with 12 hotels providing 36,000 rooms, nine theatres, three golf courses, and convention centres over a period of 10-15 years.

The Madrid region fought hard to lure in the project at a time when Spain is grappling with a record unemployment

rate of 26 percent.

Last year Las Vegas Sands, the world's biggest casino company by market value, chose Madrid over Barcelona for the project after months of talks with the two competing cities but the exact location where it would be built was only unveiled on Friday.

Alcorcon beat out two other locations near Madrid, Valdecarros and Paracuellos-Torrelon, in the race to host the project.

Opponents complain that public money will be used for a private project while Spaniards are suffering from cuts in public services.

A protest group, Eurovegas No, said it would demonstrate in Madrid later Friday.

Critics fear the casinos will spawn prostitution and crime, and a return to the excesses of Spain's property bubble, which imploded in 2008 triggering a double recession.

Las Vegas Sands operates The Venetian and The Palazzo casinos in Las Vegas and Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, as well as properties in Macao.

Lighting Parade in San.Nicolas



Danielle Harms with her gang dancing Tsunami-band in Champagne group



Merelitsa Croes and Ingrid Cijnthe having a good time in Pleasers and Teasers with Le Groove band



Edsline and sis Julianne in Majestic group



Bettina Daal with friends partying with Dushie Band



Andre Stamper - Le Groove



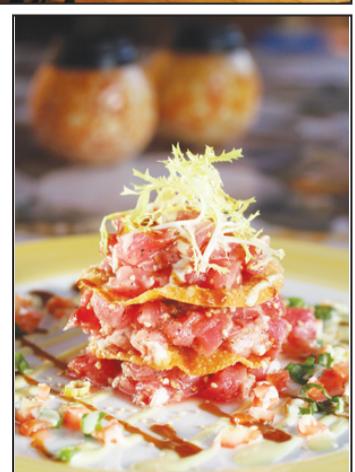
None other than Tsunami band for Chaidi and Leo

Chef's Table, "A hidden gem" close to both Palm and Eagle Beach resorts



--Tucked away down the main Bubali Road, just a mile from the Super Food market is one of Aruba's most charming eateries, known for fine food and exceptional surrounding. Chef's Table has been described by loyal patrons as "a hidden gem," and the attention to quality by the amiable staff will prompt the new visitor to agree.

Delightful decorations of original art set the mood in this converted landmark



country home, divided into several cozy rooms. There is also the choice of dining al fresco in the central gardens, one of the great options of eating out on Aruba.

A gourmet menu includes such unique items as an individual Mediterranean Fish Pot, served with pasta, or a creative sauce for the very fresh catch of the day. Guest particularly rave about their



"Surf & Turf," of lobster and filet mignon, uniquely marinated duck breast, and "Black & White Sesame Tuna" served with a Lemon-Zucchini Risotto.

Chef's Table is one of those few restaurants you can count on to be open both Sunday and Monday, as Wednesday is their day off. Don't miss the opportunity to try this moderately priced,



gourmet treat in most pleasant surroundings, and save just a tad of room for their famous "tapas" style desserts, offering a shot glass of sweetness, the perfect end to a delectable meal and most pleasant evening.

Visit their website <http://www.chefstable-saruba.com/> to meet Chef Martin and the crew.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won

this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full

Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mus-



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

sels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food,

without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.

Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 years budget-minded service!



Explore Aruba in a Jeep wrangler hard top

The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and

retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return



Clean, dependable Toyota Yaris



Frederick, Lisette and Larry welcome you

you to your door when turning in your car.

A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week; there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

Budget has become the world's third largest car rental franchise because of their commitment to quality service and product at the best price possible, and the staff of Budget Car Rental Aruba is equally dedicated to seeing their customers smile.

Nights

Kevin Hart

There's nothing that I
really want:
The stars tonight are
rich and cold
Above my house that
vaguely broods
Upon a path soon lost
in dark.

My dinner plate is
chipped all round
(It tells me that I've
changed a lot);
My glass is cracked all
down one side
(It shows there is a
path for me).

My hands—I rest my
head on them.
My eyes—I rest my
mind on them.
There's nothing that I
really need
Before I set out on that
path.



Sport

Formula One: Raikkonen on top, Massa takes week's best



Kimi Raikkonen

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, (AFP) - Former world champion Kimi Raikkonen clocked the best time on the final day of Formula One testing Friday but Ferrari's Felipe Massa remained the only driver to break 1min 18sec all week.

Raikkonen, the 2007 world champion, took his Lotus to a time of 1min 18.148sec off 83 laps with Force India's test driver Jules Bianchi, eager for a full-time season drive, in second spot on 1:18.175.

Triple world champion Sebastian Vettel was third fastest in 1min 18.565sec after completing 96 laps in his Red Bull.

Raikkonen and Bianchi also had the honour of clocking the week's second and third best times, but neither were able to better Ferrari driver Massa's time of 1:17.879 set on Thursday.

REMEMBER

to



Buckle
up

Football: Mali meet Ghana hoping to repeat history



Zambia Champions of African Cup of Nations 2012

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Mali hope history is repeated when they face Ghana today for the bronze medals at the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations tournament.

Ghana defeated Mali 2-0 in the first round of the 2012 championship only for the losers to bounce back and win the third-place play-off by the identical score thanks to a Cheick Tidiane Diabate brace.

A Mubarak Wakaso penalty earned Ghana a 1-0 win over Mali in the first round of this year's edition at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth and that is where the teams play again this weekend

with the Eagles seeking revenge.

These play-offs are usually decided in favour of the team that carries less psychological baggage into the game, and Mali were clearly more up for the battle in Equatorial Guinea a year ago.

This time, though, both teams are hurting after Mali were thrashed 4-1 by rampant Nigeria in Durban and Ghana lost on penalties to surprise package Burkina Faso in Nelspruit after a controversial 1-1 draw.

In a swift reaction to a number of strange decisions, including a soft penalty to Ghana and the harsh red carding of Burkina Faso star Jonathan Pitroipa,

Tunisian referee Slim Jididi has been suspended indefinitely.

Mali captain and talisman Seydou Keita believes his Eagles failed to soar against Nigeria because the players did not work together like they had done in ousting hosts South Africa 2-1 in the quarter-finals.

But the former Barcelona player warned against finger pointing in the Malian camp as they try to win for the second time in five bronze-medal play-offs with the losses coming against Nigeria (twice) and Ivory Coast.

"Blaming other people is a waste of time and takes us nowhere," stressed the 33-year-old competing at his sixth Cup of Nations, having made his debut when Mali hosted the

2002 tournament.

"We did well against South Africa because we played as a team. We did not play well against Nigeria and there must be a collective sharing of the responsibility for that failure."

Ghana have reached the semi-finals at the last four tournaments, but made the final only once, meaning they have become frequent competitors in a third-place match, every footballer wants to avoid.

Captain Asamoah Gyan offered a brave front: "We are very down, naturally, but we must lift ourselves for the sake of our nation. It is not the match we wanted to be involved in this weekend, but there are medals at stake."

No Black Star has more to play for than Wakaso, a find of this tournament and joint leading scorer with Nigerian Emmanuel Emenike on four goals as the race for the Golden Boot award goes down to the final two matches.



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until 2 a.m.
weekends

Boxing: All Black Williams beats Botha in title fight



BRISBANE (AFP) - World Cup-winning ex-All Black Sonny Bill Williams added another crown to his career Friday after beating veteran boxer

Frans Botha to win their WBA International heavyweight title bout.

Williams, who won the Rugby World Cup with the All Blacks in 2011, survived a

the Sydney Roosters.

Williams came through the bout unscathed for his NRL premiership return on March 7 - besides a bloodied nose.

Botha's record now stands at 48-10-3. The South African has fought the likes of Lennox Lewis, Mike Tyson, Vladimir Klitschko and Evander Holyfield in a 23-year fight career.

Williams has aspirations to win higher honours but was unsure of his future in the ring.

"I am not sure, I will see how I go. I'll just keep plugging away, keep on doing what's keeping me happy," Williams said.

"He caught me with a couple of good shots but thank God I stuck in there."



New Zealand rugby union player Sonny Bill Williams (L) and Francois Botha of South Africa exchange blows

whirlwind finish from South African Botha to land the vacant title with a unanimous points decision over 10 rounds in Brisbane.

The ringside judges gave him the fight 97-91, 98-94, 97-91 over the 10 rounds to boos from the crowd.

Williams was holding on in the final round as 44-year-old Botha, dubbed the "White Buffalo", went after him with heavy blows.

Williams, 27, who remains unbeaten in six fights, is due to play in Australia's National Rugby League this year with

Wallabies flyhalf Quade Cooper won his first professional fight on the same fight card in a first-round knock-out of fellow Australian Barry Dunnett.

Cooper landed a right hook high on Dunnett's head to send his opponent crashing to the canvas inside the opening round of his scheduled four-round cruiserweight bout at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre. Dunnett, 32, had two previous professional boxing bouts in 2010 but it was in Muay Thai boxing, in which fighters are allowed to use their elbows and knees. He looked well short of fitness against Cooper, who will be calling the shots for the Queensland Reds in this season's Super 15 provincial series, which kicks off next weekend.

"I loved it. I was having so much fun in there I didn't want to get out," Cooper said.

"It just makes me want to get out there and do it again."

NBA: Celtics crush Lakers

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They are also without rookie starter Jared Sullinger, whose first season ended with back surgery.

The contest was hyped as a battle between two of the most storied franchises in the NBA but it ended up being a mismatch.

Garnett reached a milestone against the Lakers by reaching 25,000 career points. He is only the 16th player in history to hit that plateau.

It marked the worst loss of the season for the Lakers, who fell behind 103-71 with 8:16 left in the fourth and looked listless despite getting centre Dwight Howard back. The Lakers came into the contest having won all three games Howard missed with a shoulder injury.

Howard was a non-factor against the Celtics, fouling out

with just over five minutes left in the fourth. He finished with just nine points and nine rebounds.

Kobe Bryant had 27 points as the Lakers dropped to 3-2 on their seven-game road trip. It marked just the third time this season Bryant did not record an assist.

The Lakers got more bad news just prior to the opening tip off as they learned forward Pau Gasol suffered a tear of the plantar fascia -- on the bottom of his right foot -- and will be out for a minimum six to eight weeks.

Metta World Peace returned Thursday from a one-game suspension but he looked out of sorts early and finished with just five points on two-of-13 shooting from the field in the loss.



BRISBANE (AFP) - Wallabies flyhalf Quade Cooper won his first professional fight in a first-round knock-out of fellow Australian Barry Dunnett in Brisbane on Friday. Cooper landed a right hook high on Dunnett's head to send his opponent crashing to the canvas inside the opening round of his scheduled four-round cruiserweight bout at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre. Dunnett, 32, had two previous professional boxing bouts in 2010 but it was in Muay Thai boxing, in which fighters are allowed to use their elbows and knees. He looked well short of fitness against Cooper, who will be calling the shots for the Queensland Reds in this season's Super 15 provincial series, which kicks off next weekend.

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